

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are concerned that a disproportionate number  
4 of people in this State are unable to secure housing for  
5 themselves and their families and are forced to live in the  
6 streets without shelter or in emergency shelters; and

7 WHEREAS, A substantial number of the homeless population  
8 are mentally ill or developmentally disabled; these homeless  
9 people are more readily subjected to abuse; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite current public and private efforts, the  
11 homeless problem in this State is a critical threat to the  
12 health, safety, and welfare of many people and communities  
13 across the State; and

14 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest that the General  
15 Assembly take immediate and necessary action to ensure a more  
16 adequate response to the needs of homeless people; and

17 WHEREAS, The General Assembly also acknowledges that the  
18 complex problem of homelessness in this State is being  
19 addressed by a rapidly growing range of services from the  
20 State and local governments as well as the private sector;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, This creates the need for coordination and  
23 planning in the allocation of resources and in the design and  
24 implementation of new programs to serve the homeless; the  
25 General Assemble finds that there is a need for a single  
26 entity to coordinate these efforts; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
28 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
29 there is created a task force on the State Advocacy Program  
30 for the Homeless Mentally Ill and Developmentally Disabled  
31 under the Department of Human Services; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the task force shall be composed of 7  
2 members appointed as follows: 3 members of the House of  
3 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives, one of whom shall be designated the  
5 chairperson by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 2  
6 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
7 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and 2  
8 members appointed by the Governor representing the Department  
9 of Human Services, all of whom shall serve without  
10 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and  
11 necessary expenses from funds appropriated for that purpose;  
12 and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That the members of the task force shall be  
14 charged with, but not limited to, the following duties and  
15 responsibilities:

16           (1) Determine the need and cost of creating a staff  
17 advocacy position within the Bureau of Homeless Services  
18 and Supportive Services of the Department of Human  
19 Services that will promote and facilitate the development  
20 of community-based support systems to protect the health,  
21 safety, welfare, and human and civil rights of homeless  
22 individuals with mental illness or developmental  
23 disabilities and that will develop and implement programs  
24 to carry out those goals;

25           (2) Initiate requests for proposals or continued  
26 funding forms for the establishment or expansion of  
27 nonprofit agencies and organizations that will be  
28 responsible for developing or coordinating comprehensive  
29 and integrated community-based support systems for  
30 homeless individuals with mental illness or developmental  
31 disabilities;

32           (3) Develop a model plan under which (i) assistance  
33 may be provided to homeless persons for maintaining  
34 sources of income, food, clothing, health care,

1 counseling, training, and employment and for maintaining  
2 a stable living environment; and (ii) individualized  
3 service plans for homeless persons may be implemented;

4 (4) Explore the provisions of the Mental Health and  
5 Developmental Disabilities Code in relation to homeless  
6 individuals with mental illnesses or developmental  
7 disabilities who refuse services for themselves and  
8 recommend plans for aiding these individuals; and

9 (5) Propose necessary grants-in-aid for entities  
10 that provide services for homeless individuals with  
11 mental illness or developmental disabilities and develop  
12 requirements for the publication of criteria for the  
13 proposals for determining eligible services and the  
14 amount of grants-in aid programs available; and be it  
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That the task force shall receive the  
17 assistance of legislative staff, may employ skilled experts  
18 with the approval of the Speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives, and shall report its findings to the General  
20 Assembly on or before March 31, 2004.